

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT PROGRAM

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training program relies heavily on the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests which provide the foundation for the DRE program. Once trained and certified as a DRE an officer becomes highly skilled in the detection and identification of persons impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. DREs are trained to conduct a standardized and systematic 12-step evaluation consisting of physical, mental and medical components.

The DRE training program is intended for those officers who have an intense interest in impaired driving enforcement. This program is supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is overseen internationally by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

DRE training is broken into three phases; classroom, certification and final knowledge exam. Classroom training consists of 9 days of in-class instruction. Students must be able to attend all 72 hours of instruction. Certification training immediately follows the classroom training. Students should expect to attend five evenings of certification training. The final knowledge exam is an all-encompassing exam and attendance is mandatory to be certified as a DRE.

This training is restricted to currently sworn law enforcement officers who have already successfully completed SFST training. An application must be completed to attend this training and the application must be approved and contain the signature of the applicant's supervisor and commanding officer.

Topics of training include:

- The involvement of drugs in impaired driving incidents
- The seven drug categories and their effect
- Drug use and the human body
- How to administer the psychophysical and physiological tests used in the DRE evaluation
- Preparing a drug influence evaluation narrative report
- Procedures for testifying in DRE cases
- Identifying injuries and illnesses that produce signs and symptoms similar to alcohol/drug impairment
- Effects of polydrug use

Classroom Training

Date: September 9-19, 2019 (Monday through Friday)

Time: 1000 - 1800 hrs.

Location: Maryland Public Safety Education Training Center, 6852 4th St., Sykesville, MD 21784

Certification Training

Date: October 23-27, 2019

September 30-October 4, 2019

October 7-11, 2019

Time: 1400 - 2200 hrs.

Location: Baltimore Central Booking Intake Facility (CBIF), 300 E. Madison St., Baltimore, MD 21202

Final Knowledge Exam

Date: October 17, 2019

Time: 0900 - 1700 hrs.

Location: Maryland Public Safety Education Training Center, 6852 4th St., Sykesville, MD 21784

Application Deadline: August 18, 2019

State of Maryland
Drug Recognition Expert School
Applicant Summary

Name: (Last, First)_____ Rank:_____ ID:_____

Appointment Date:_____ Work Address:_____

Current Assignment:_____ Work Telephone #:_____

Email Address:_____

The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program has received international acclaim for its success in identifying the drug-impaired individual. Although the focus of the DRE curricula is on the identification of the drug-impaired driver, DRE skills are applied to many different law enforcement activities, including drug interdiction enforcement. In addition, DRE's are frequently called upon to differentiate between drug influence and medical and/or mental disorders. The certified DRE is an exceptionally valuable tool for combating the adverse impact of drugs on the communities we serve.

DRE School is extremely demanding. To receive certification as a DRE, two phases of training must be completed. The following summarizes each phase:

ACADEMIC TRAINING: This phase is typically conducted over nine days, two days of the Pre-school and seven days of the DRE School. The academic training includes courses in physiology, vital signs, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), as well as extensive material on each of the seven categories of the drugs of abuse. The training includes three written examinations, an SFST proficiency examination, and five written quizzes. Students must achieve a minimum of 80% on the three examinations, and demonstrate proficiency in administering the DRE evaluation in order to progress to the certification phase. The academic training is conducted utilizing creative, participant-centered teaching techniques.

CERTIFICATION PHASE: After successfully completing the academic portion, the students proceed to the certification training phase. This training is conducted four to five nights a week until the requirements are met. It is the student's responsibility to complete the certification requirements within two months following the DRE School. These requirements include:

- Participating in a minimum of 12 drug evaluations while under the supervision of a DRE instructor. Six of the 12 evaluations must be conducted personally by the student, and all evaluations must be completed within two months of the completion of the DRE School.
- Attaining a 75% toxicological confirmation rate. Toxicological results must be determined within three months of the completion of the DRE School.
- Identifying subjects under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, a student's inability to complete the certification phase of training within three months of the Academic Training portion of the school must be verified by the student's commanding officer.

In addition, the student must maintain a progress log and a rolling log, and submit a quality resume. Finally, the student must pass a comprehensive final knowledge examination, which includes memorizing the entire symptomology matrix with all of the general indicators, and obtain the written endorsement of two certified DRE instructors.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the regulating and certifying organization for the DRE program. DRE certification is valid for two years. In order to maintain certification, DRE's must conduct a minimum of four evaluations within two years, submit a rolling log and current resume, and attend eight hours of re-certification training.

The minimum qualifications include the successful completion of a NHTSA Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) basic school, and a demonstrated interest in DWI enforcement. Applicants must also have a minimum of two years of experience as a patrol officer and an above average ability in courtroom testimony.

Date of SFST Training:_____ Location of SFST Training:_____

The number of arrests you have made for driving under the influence/while impaired by alcohol (TA 21-902a,b):_____

The number of arrests you have made for driving under the influence of drugs/controlled dangerous substances (TA 21-902c,d):_____

The number of arrests you have made for possession of a controlled dangerous substance:

Summarize your prior assignments related to, or of interest to, the DRE program:

Summarize your formal education, work, practical experience, and training that may be related to, or may be of interest to, the DRE program:

How do you expect DRE training to benefit you and your Department?

If there is anything else you think the DRE coordinator should know about your interest in the DRE program, use this space:

List two certified DRE's that recommend you for this school:

Name:_____ Rank:_____ ID:_____ Work Phone:_____

Name:_____ Rank:_____ ID:_____ Work Phone:_____

I have reviewed the requirements set forth in this application and recommend this officer for Drug Recognition Expert Training:

Current supervisor's signature:_____

Commanding officer's signature:_____

Agency DRE Coordinator's signature:_____

I solemnly affirm that the information contained in this application is true and accurate. I will comply fully with all requirements set forth for certification as a Drug Recognition Expert.

Applicant's Signature:_____ Date:_____